



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 117th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 168

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2022

No. 176

Senate

The Senate met at 11 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, the source of power and might, strengthen us. Lord, strengthen our faith so that we will trust You in our seasons of joy and sadness. Strengthen our will so that we will choose the difficult right and resist the easy wrong. Strengthen our decisions so that we will not vacillate when commitment is needed. Strengthen our affection so that we will learn to love You as You have first loved us. Lord, strengthen our Senators to believe that Your purposes will ultimately prevail.

We pray in Your strong Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

The Senator from California.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 8987

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I understand that there is a bill at the desk that is due for a second reading.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bill by title for a second time.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 8987) to amend the Justice for United States Victims of State Sponsored

Terrorism Act to authorize appropriations for catch-up payments from the United States Victims of State Sponsored Terrorism Fund.

Mr. PADILLA. In order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I would object to further proceeding.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

The bill will be placed on the calendar.

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PADILLA). Without objection, it is so ordered.

SENATOR-ELECT PETER WELCH

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, a few minutes ago, before I opened the Senate, I had the privilege of walking on the floor with Senator-elect PETER WELCH of Vermont. I am going to speak more about our new Senator, who will be taking this seat very shortly, within the next few days.

I would note, as we walked on the floor, unlike the first time I walked on the floor, Senator-elect WELCH has a great deal of experience from his years as being one of the leaders in the House of Representatives. As Congressman WELCH, he has the right, of course, to come on the floor, but also, as Senator-elect WELCH, he has that right.

I told him that, when I first came here, we were actually a 99-Member Senate because there had been a tied race in my neighboring State of New Hampshire. I was number 99, the most junior Member of the Senate. I would have been the youngest Member of the Senate, but there was one Senator who

came in 2 years before who was younger, a Senator from Delaware named Joseph R. Biden. We were the kids of the Senate.

Frank Church was a distinguished Senator, and I had been meeting with him. A vote was starting, and he said: I have got to go to the floor, but come with me.

When I got to the door out there, I was still the State's attorney of Chittenden County, VT, and county prosecutor. So, naturally, I stopped at the door.

He said, "No, no, Senators-elect have the privilege of the floor," which, even if he had not been a Congressman, Senator-elect WELCH would have had.

I started forward, and the doorman said: I am sorry. The Senate is in session.

Senator Church said: Well, this is Senator LEAHY—Senator-elect LEAHY.

It was the first time anybody had called me "Senator."

Then I saw him go down his list. "Oh, ah, good morning, Senator LEAHY." So I am, like, maybe this is going to work out.

I walked on the floor, and I saw all of these giants of the Senate in here for a vote. It took me a little while to get used to it. I think, with Congressman WELCH, on January 3, when I will be privileged to see him be sworn in as a new Senator, he won't take any time to get used to it. He knows the decorum of both bodies. Like the vast majority of Vermonters, I am very proud to have him here.

Also, in realizing the distinguished Presiding Officer is not allowed to respond to comments about himself, I would note for the record that there were cheers in our very small State of Vermont when our country's largest State reelected the now Presiding Officer. We are pleased—both my wife, Marcelle, and I—to see that.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

S6677